

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 770

To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BALLANCE, Mr. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FORD, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HILL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEACH, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SABO, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr.

UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WATT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Morris K. Udall Arctic
 5 Wilderness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Americans cherish the continued existence
 9 of expansive, unspoiled wilderness ecosystems and
 10 wildlife found on their public lands, and feel a
 11 strong moral responsibility to protect this wilderness
 12 heritage as an enduring resource to bequeath undis-
 13 turbed to future generations of Americans.

14 (2) It is widely believed by ecologists, wildlife
 15 scientists, public land specialists, and other experts
 16 that the wilderness ecosystem centered around and

1 dependent upon the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic
2 National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, represents the
3 very epitome of a primeval wilderness ecosystem and
4 constitutes the greatest wilderness area and diversity
5 of wildlife habitats of its kind in the United States.

6 (3) President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated
7 protection of the wilderness values of the Arctic
8 coastal plain in 1960 when he set aside 8,900,000
9 acres establishing the Arctic National Wildlife Ref-
10 uge expressly “for the purpose of preserving unique
11 wildlife, wilderness and recreational values”.

12 (4) Congress strengthened the protective man-
13 agement of the Eisenhower-designated area in 1980
14 with the enactment of the Alaska National Interest
15 Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96–487; 94
16 Stat. 2371), section 303(2) of which established the
17 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, more than doubled
18 the size of the wildlife refuge, and extended statu-
19 tory wilderness protection to most of the original
20 area.

21 (5) Before the enactment of the Alaska Na-
22 tional Interest Lands Conservation Act, the House
23 of Representatives twice passed legislation that
24 would have protected the entire Eisenhower-des-

1 igned area as wilderness, including the Arctic
2 coastal plain.

3 (6) A majority of Americans have supported
4 and continue to support preserving and protecting
5 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the
6 Arctic coastal plain, from any industrial development
7 and consider oil and gas exploration and develop-
8 ment in particular to be incompatible with the pur-
9 poses for which this incomparable wilderness eco-
10 system has been set aside.

11 (7) Canada has taken action to preserve those
12 portions of the wilderness ecosystem of the Arctic
13 that exist on its side of the international border and
14 provides strong legal protection for the habitat of
15 the Porcupine River caribou herd that migrates an-
16 nually through both countries to calve on the Arctic
17 coastal plain.

18 (8) The extension of full wilderness protection
19 for the Arctic coastal plain within the Arctic Na-
20 tional Wildlife Refuge will still leave 95 percent of
21 the North Slope of Alaska without such wilderness
22 protection, so that development of energy resources
23 in Alaska can continue to contribute significantly to
24 meeting the energy needs of the United States with-

1 out despoiling the unique Arctic coastal plain of the
2 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

3 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Congress hereby de-
4 clares that it is the policy of the United States—

5 (1) to honor the decades of bipartisan efforts
6 that have increasingly protected the great wilderness
7 ecosystem of the Arctic coastal plain;

8 (2) to sustain this natural treasure for the cur-
9 rent generation of Americans; and

10 (3) to do everything possible to protect and pre-
11 serve this magnificent natural ecosystem so that it
12 may be bequeathed in its unspoiled natural condition
13 to future generations of Americans.

14 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS, ARC-**
15 **TIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ALASKA.**

16 (a) INCLUSION OF ARCTIC COASTAL PLAIN.—In fur-
17 therance of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.),
18 an area within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the
19 State of Alaska comprising approximately 1,559,538
20 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Arctic Na-
21 tional Wildlife Refuge—1002 Area Alternative E—Wilder-
22 ness Designation”, dated October 28, 1991, and available
23 for inspection in the offices of the Secretary of the Inte-
24 rior, is hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as

1 a component of the National Wilderness Preservation Sys-
2 tem.

3 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The area designated as wil-
4 derness under subsection (a) shall be administered by the
5 Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions
6 of the Wilderness Act as part of the wilderness area al-
7 ready in existence within the Arctic National Wildlife Ref-
8 uge as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

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